

# ALMAGEST

April 7, 1989

Louisiana State University in Shreveport

Volume 14, Number 20



SHREVEPORT

Editorial says "vote".  
Column says, "vote".  
Tommy J. says, "vote".  
Get the message?

Back to high school at  
LSUS.....p. 6

LETTERS

Counselor criticizes AL-  
MAGEST.....p. 3

Don't forget the presi-  
dent's running  
mate.....p. 3

Ride those men out of  
town.....p. 3

Overall, students dislike  
math and English. p. 4

Lab to help students  
compute.....p. 5

## Alexander allowed to run SGA advisor reversed decision

By KEVAN SMITH  
Staff Writer

Royal Alexander's campaign  
for SGA president almost ended  
last week over a constitutional  
wrangle but he will be allowed to  
run.

At issue was Article III, section  
2, phrase c of the LSUS SGA  
constitution, which states that to  
be eligible for the presidency, a  
person "must have attended  
LSUS for two consecutive  
semesters preceding nomination  
or have served on full semester in  
the senate preceding nomination."

Alexander is in his second  
semester at LSUS but he has not  
been a senator. He will have two  
complete semesters by inaugura-  
tion day in June.

But someone thought he needed  
two completed semesters to  
run and challenged his candidacy  
to Dr. Gloria Raines, vice  
chancellor of student affairs and  
SGA advisor.

Raines, the week before spring  
break, said, "The final deci-



"The final decision is he's not  
eligible."

Dr. Gloria Raines, 1989

sion is he's not eligible. All I have  
to go on is precedent."

But, she could have chosen  
two contradictory precedents.

While the issue of two full  
semesters has never been raised  
before, a similar issue involving  
the hours a candidate must have  
at the time of election has, said  
senator Dale Kaiser, chairman of  
the student affairs rules committee and presidential candidate.

"If it wasn't evident before all this happened that the SGA is  
in need of reform, then it should be now."

Royal Alexander, 1989

"In one, in the 1986 election, a  
vice presidential candidate did  
not have the necessary 60 hours  
at the time of election. According  
to Kaiser, Raines first told the  
candidate she could run, then  
reversed her position, deciding  
that a candidate must have 60  
hours to run.

In that election, though, some

candidates were allowed to run  
even though they didn't have 60  
hours. Similarly, this semester,  
vice presidential candidate Ray-  
mond Gaines has only 59 hours  
and is being allowed to run on the  
basis that he will have 60 hours on

See Alexander...

(Continued on pg. 8)

## Media ethics questioned

By LORI NEJAME  
Managing Editor

"We are a nation consumed  
with ethical issues," said John  
Sharp, general manager of  
Boots Pharmaceutical.

Sharp was the keynote  
speaker, Tuesday, in a forum  
on ethics, sponsored by the  
LSUS communications depart-  
ment, the Shreveport Chapter  
of the Society of Professional  
Journalists and the LSUS  
Chapter of the Public Relations  
Student Society.

Sharp defined ethics as  
"standards of behavior which  
concern relationships with  
others."

"Journalism from an ethical  
standpoint is unique," he con-  
tinued. "Without credibility,  
the institution of free press as  
we know it would probably  
crumble."

A panel consisting of  
students and business, public  
relations and journalism pro-  
fessionals took up where Sharp  
left off by participating in a  
scenario questioning jour-  
nalism ethics.

The panel was presented  
with an issue affecting the  
business community, the media  
and the public relations agency.  
Liz Swaine of KTBS, Channel 3  
served as moderator.

Rex Bryan, of  
Shreveport/Bossier Japanese  
Mission, criticized the press for

being overzealous and over-  
competitive in their attempt to  
get the news first.

"The greater good we (the  
media) serve isn't to get it (the  
information) first but, to  
publicize what's going on,"  
countered Kevin Doyle,  
reporter for the (Shreveport's)  
Times.

Dr. Joe Loftin, communica-  
tions professor, said what must  
be kept in mind is the media's  
"responsibility to serve the  
public." He explained that  
though someone may read a  
story and think it's positive, so-  
meone else may read the same  
story and view it as connotating  
a negative side.

As to the role the public rela-  
tions people play in the media,  
Gary Robinson, public relations  
major, sees it "not as an adver-  
sarial role." Rather, he views it  
as one where counseling and  
open communications will take  
place between business and the  
media.

Dr. Dalton Cloud, chairman  
of communications depart-  
ment, re-cast Swaine's question  
as to whether or not "(it's) the  
public relations' job to sugar-  
coat things." People are hired  
by corporations with certain  
guidelines to meet and the  
public relations' goal is to pre-  
sent issues in a positive light, he  
said.

## Where have all the trees gone?

By LORI NEJAME  
Managing Editor

If you've noticed something  
different in the mall area this  
week, you're not alone. All of the  
trees around campus are being  
pruned but, many feel it is an un-  
necessary butchering that's tak-  
ing place.

According to Burt Farrar,  
physical plant director, the trees  
"should've been thinned out a  
long time ago."

Farrar explained that the  
trees weren't getting enough sun-  
shine and some will "start grow-  
ing sideways."

"They look kind of funny when  
they're first pruned," Farrar  
said, "but they will grow out."

Farrar said he wanted this  
pruning to be done last winter but  
at that time the money wasn't  
available. Presently, the money  
used is "maintenance money,"  
Farrar said, adding "(We got the



Right, trees... left, no trees. photo by Woodrow Evans

money) out of our hide."

Farrar said this wasn't a spur-  
of-the-moment decision. Rather,  
the need to prune the trees has  
"been discussed for two or three  
years," he added.

Many people agree the prun-  
ing was necessary but question  
the extent to which it was carried

out.

Malcolm Parker, library  
director, thinks, "They needed to  
be trimmed. I think they were  
drastic in the trimming. But, I do  
think they'll grow back and be  
beautiful once again — it may

See Trees...

(Continued on pg. 8)

# editorial

# Vote 'Yes' to keep education

By LILY DIZON

Editor

"When I hear the words 'TAX' along with 'VOTE', right away, I think, 'no,'" said an LSUS student, concerning the upcoming special election on April 29.

The election will allow the people of Louisiana to voice they ayes or nays to the proposed constitutional amendment that will increase taxes in a state already overladen with taxes.

April 29...Tax...Vote...How we shake in our shoes at the sound of those words and the closing-in of that date.

However, we have no choice but to vote, "yes." It's not a question of, can we afford an increase? It's a question of, can we afford more cuts? Cuts in hospitals and other similar institutions? Cuts in EDUCATION?

The answer to these questions is an emphatic "no." This precarious position in which the state has placed us is a "no-win" situation. Indeed, it's a "lose-all" one as we stand to lose more than mere money which will be raised with the increase. We're threatened a cut in education and here at LSUS, that translates to mean fewer class offerings in the schedule and less-qualified professors — less professors, period, in an already-understaffed faculty.

Our tuition was hiked to an additional \$60 last semester. Can we afford yet another increase?

If our university is not shut down completely, then more than likely, a larger tuition increase is what we will be facing. According to a memo that was sent to all state public universities from the governor's office, each university, on its own, will have to come up with the money that is cut by the state. Other than going to the poll and pulling that lever on the "yes" box, how will we come up with the estimated five-to-six-digit figure?

We are asked, in a nutshell, to approve an increase in sales tax, auto license, gasoline, corporate income, cigarette, wine, and other taxes. Yes, the add-in figure for the state will equal to an add-out figure for us but we have no alternatives. It's either pay or lose and right now, paying is at least something that we can act on.

When it comes time to vote, there will always be an individual who mistakenly thinks, "I don't need to vote because it won't make a difference any way."

Wrong. It's time to realize though it seems too idealistic, you can make a difference.

For the improvement of our state, like one state senator asked, "If not this, what? If not now, when?"

For the sake of our state, our future and our education, April 29...Tax...Vote...Yes!

Your  
Vote  
Counts!

**SGA: April 12&13**  
**Tax: April 29**

## A reporter's dilemma:

## 'Who should I endorse?'

By KEVAN SMITH  
Staff Writer

The ALMAGEST endorsed candidates for SGA president only once and that was about four or five years ago.

But, boy did we catch it when they lost.

The new president came in with a grudge, rabid as Ole Yellow for hot editor blood. The resulting ill-will between the ALMAGEST and the SGA took years to heal and in some ways, continues today.

But in this election, it might already appear as if one ticket has our endorsement.

Royal Alexander's and Craig Smith's campaign fliers feature a darn good photo first used in this paper. Next to the photo, Kevan Smith, a reporter, is credited for the shot.

The photo does not come from an ALMAGEST negative and Alexander did not ask the ALMAGEST for permission to use the photo. Alexander, please-

ed with the quality of the shot, said he photographed the picture from a copy of the paper.

We aren't angry but we do want people to know that we don't endorse the Alexander/Smith ticket and in order to be fair to all candidates, nor do we endorse any other ticket.

But the flier led us to think once again about an endorsement.

After long, hard thought and a few beers, we decided to endorse either Spuds McKenzie, Ollie North, Schooly D. or Michigan point guard "Meal Time" Robinson, depending on who could shoot best at the three-point line. We thought that Robinson, though a heavy favorite, could be upset by Schooly.

Then someone told us that none of them were LSUS students. They also said it wouldn't do much for our SGA relations.

So, we decided to put it off until after the debate Monday.

Maybe, we thought, a clear favorite will emerge and we can stick our eggs with them.

"But, what if they lose," someone said. "And here you've been calling for a complete overhaul of the SGA. We'd be killed."

Then the subject turned to a military coup by the ROTC department (we did a nice article on them before), recall elections (difficult, but feasible) and becoming a private business (would people pay for the paper?).

Despite our fears, we finally decided.

Each of us decided to vote separately for the candidate of our choice.

We urge every student who reads this to do the same — it's important. And tell your friends to vote, too.

Hell, stick a pen in your dog's mouth or coat his paws with ink and let him mark a ballot.

Just vote.

## ALMAGEST

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## LETTERS POLICY

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor.

Letters should be typed and double-spaced. They should be turned in to the Almagest office, BH 344, by noon on the Tuesday preceding the Friday publication date.

Obscene, libelous, and anonymous letters will not be published. The Almagest does not guarantee that every letter will be published.



# campus

## *English plus math equal*

# Tough times at LSUS

By LILY DIZON  
Editor

Memorizing the multiplication table and mastering the art of dotting the I's and crossing the T's cannot be compared to the "toughness" of taking classes at LSUS, according to a survey of students on campus.

When asked to list the hardest and easiest courses they have taken, many LSUS students ranked math and English classes high in both categories. Some students blamed the degree of difficulty on their own negligence or lack of a strong background on the subject. Others placed the blame on the ineptness of the professors.

College algebra (Math 121) poses as the hardest class for Darlene Miller, psychology freshman. "I didn't get all the background I needed in high school," she said, adding that she was out of high school four years before starting college.

Because she is required to take the math course, Miller will retake it, "try harder and stick with it," she said.

Randy James, sophomore, English major, has his own

"Math poses a problem to many students because they have to 'operate' with certain skills which many of them lacked."

Dr. Stuart Mills, 1989

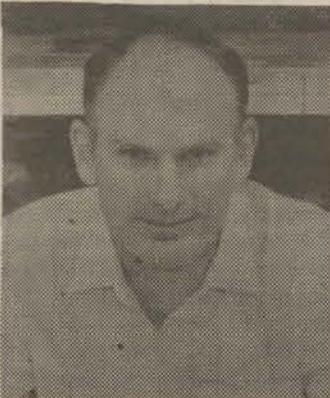
reasons as to why Math 121 is difficult. "The book didn't give enough detailed information as to how to work the problems," he said, adding, "It took for granted that you already know."

According to James, he devoted "at least 10 hours weekly to this class (but) it had no profound effect" on him.

Phyllis Jones, criminal justice senior, took trigonometry (Math 122) and said it was a mistake on her part. "I didn't take it in high school and didn't even take geometry," she said.

Jones said her professor, Dr. Carlos Spaht, was "a good professor."

"It was my problem, not his," she said, adding, "You really need to devote 12 hours a day to



Dr. Stuart Mills

the class, but you just don't have the time."

According to Dr. Stuart Mills, chairman of the math department, math poses a problem to many students because they have to "operate with certain skills which many of them lacked."

Specifically, Math 121 is a "service course," he said. "It's not for math majors per se.

Rather, it's a course that sets standards for students in other departments such as business and science," he added.

On the flip side of "Math is a problem," some students say math does add up and is relatively "easy." The ones who think so have a common denominator: They all took math under Spaht.

According to Tracy Graham, freshman, pre-law student, "(Spaht) is the best teacher I've ever had in math."

Though Graham did not stay up nights worrying about the class, he felt it was worthwhile because of Spaht's effectiveness in teaching and also, "If I didn't take it, there would be a big gap between what I've learned in high school and the next math."

Math 121 "really wasn't easy" for Donna King, accounting sophomore. "I loved the professor. (Spaht) didn't make us try to understand the book

ourselves. He interpreted it for us," she said.

"I appreciate those comments," Spaht said. "My personal philosophy is to try to explain (the mathematical) concept as best I can and to make the class as enjoyable as I can."

For the students viewing math as an obstacle course, Spaht cited inadequate preparation as the main reason. Also, some of the students come into Math 121 after having high school algebra and they have a false impression of how easy or hard it will be, he said.

In addition to math, English ranks high in students' books as their most difficult course. For Graham, it's the substitution of someone new that makes his English class difficult. Near the end of last semester, his English

See Tough Times...  
(Continued on Pg. 5)

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The Academic Profile Test will be given on April 19. On April 13, from 10:30 to 11:10 in Bronson 108, there will be English professors who will meet with students who want to discuss strategies for the essay part of the test.

The Student Organizations Council will sponsor the SGA's Presidential Debate Monday, April 10, at noon in the Ballroom in the UC.

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# campus

# Labs put students in mainframe of mind

By KRISTI SHUPP

Staff Writer

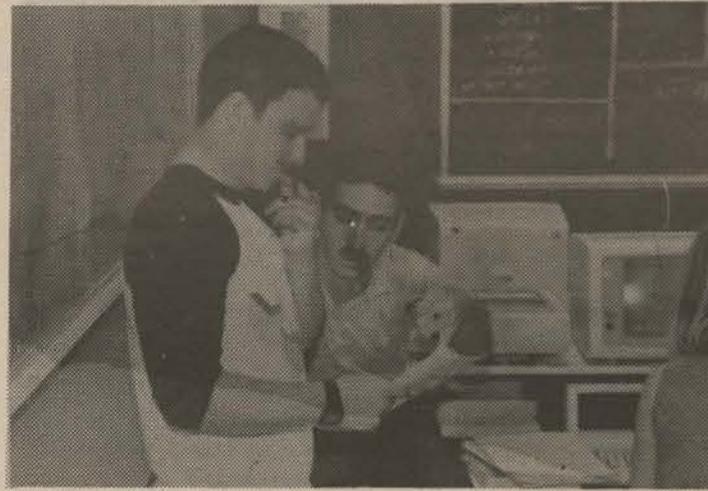
Students who have studied the class schedule for the summer term and the fall semester may have noticed a conspicuous absence under lab listings. The schedules only mention the math and writing labs, leaving students to wonder whether or not the computer lab will be offered for these two terms.

To coin a phrase popularized by Douglas Adams' trilogy, "Don't Panic!" The computer lab will be open for business as usual and is "planning on growing with the needs of the student body," said Mrs. Carol Hall, chairman of the computer science department.

So far, the needs of the student body have precipitated the growth of three labs. The tutorial lab is located in BH404 which also houses the math lab.

David Thomas, computer science freshman, explains his role as tutor in this lab. "They bring their programs in and I debug them," he said. Thomas said the problems deal with flow charts or syntax errors in programs.

According to Hall, the tutorial is designed to help students with writing programs, math pro-



Dennis Pinkard helping Chad Orman.

blems and spreadsheets.

On the other hand, the PC lab in BE112 is a place where "Students can get hands-on time on computers so they don't have to own their own," said Hall. The room contains 32 IBM PCs which students sign-up to use during a specific time. The PC lab also has an extension in BE114 which uses Zenith computers similar to the PCs.

The CRT lab in BE114 houses terminals for students taking Cobol or other higher level com-

puter courses. Hall said that although the CRTs resemble the PCs, they are wired into the mainframe in the Administration Building which gives them more computing power than the PCs. For more computing power, Hall says that the terminals have access to the mainframe at LSUS-Baton Rouge which is one of the biggest in the University System. Because the mainframe in Baton Rouge can "crunch numbers faster" and has "powerful statistical packages," it is used

couraged a free process of thought," she added.

Clay Peterson, business senior, agreed with Harkins. "I went to every class meeting and it wasn't a pain. English wasn't a difficult course because (Colbert) chose not to make it a difficult course," he said.

According to Colbert, LSUS' English department "has a reputation of not being hard but, rather, demanding."

"We set high standards above the initial level (the students)

"It wasn't all that easy but Colbert encouraged independent thinking."

Carol Harkins, 1989

"If a student starts low and remains the same at the end (of the semester), I feel I may have failed in some respect."

Robert Colbert, 1989

help them and to guide them but 99 percent of the efforts have to come from the students."

But, one student's weakness can be another's strength. For Carol Harkins, sophomore, pre-law student, English under Dr. Robert Colbert was her "most enjoyable class."

"It wasn't all that easy but Colbert encouraged independent thinking," Harkins said. "He didn't expect us to see literature the way he sees it. Rather, he en-

systems. She says the tutors must have had CSC 111 and 211 or 240.

Daryl Davis, computer science freshman, enjoys his job as tutor for both the CRT lab and the PC lab. "It's just fun," he said, adding, "I love computers." When students let the computers scare them, Davis tells them that they are "going to have to mess up to learn."

"Sometimes you can be on a computer so long and not catch an error," Davis said. "You need a fresh pair of eyes to look over it." And that's one of his jobs he added.

Hall appraises the labs as "very successful."

"We process about 1,600 students a year and are hopefully making them computer literate. Some labs are used by all types of majors including upper-class computer science majors, yet there's still time for them to sign up," she said.

Paige Metzger, psychology senior, shares Hall's enthusiasm for the labs but disagrees about sign-up times. "I thought it was hard to get a time slot but, when you did, it was quiet," she said, adding, "The assistants were helpful. If I did have a problem, I'd go up to the math lab and they'd solve it in seconds."

With at the beginning of class, he said. "If a student starts low and remains the same at the end (of the semester), I feel I may have failed in some respect," Colbert said.

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**feature**

# For whom the bells toll

By Ellen Jarratt  
Contributing Writer

Picture this: You are sitting in a lime green room approximately 20 by 30 at a wooden desk ridden with carved names at an assigned seat. It's the beginning of class, the bell has just rung, your teacher calls roll — a series of "heres" can be heard throughout the room.

The first thing that comes to mind is high school. But, no. This is a typical day at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Not all the classes at LSUS, with approximately 4,000 enrolled, require assigned seats but bells and roll call can be heard throughout most of the eight buildings at the school.

Many find this "high school" aspect very annoying but others just consider it a normal day at school. Most of the students annoyed by this have attended other universities where attending class and getting there on time is left up to the individual. Others who have only attended LSUS find these reminders of high school normal. This applies mostly to the students just out of high school but it is a little disconcerting to those who are older.

Paula Barnett, a recent graduate of Texas A&M, began her graduate studies for a masters in business administration at LSUS. Her classes were larger at A&M — with an approximate enrollment of 40,000 — but she said she never had to deal with ringing bells, roll call or assigned seats. Being in the graduate program she has not been assigned a seat or heard roll call often but she said she has

"You think when you get to college you leave the bells behind along with the pledge of allegiance and saying the prayer."

**Paula Barnett, 1989**

noticed the bells.

"Yeah, I noticed the bells," Barnett said, adding, "I thought, 'Is this like high school or what?'"

Barnett is reminded of high school. Hearing the bells everyday makes her feel uncomfortable, she said. She feels that class should begin and end at the teacher's discretion.

To Barnett, the bells are degrading. "You think when you get to college you leave the bells behind along with the pledge of allegiance and saying the prayer. There should be a significant degree of difference between college and high school," she added.

One thing she likes about LSUS is the small classes. On an average, Barnett had at least 50 and sometimes 500 students in her classes at A&M.

There is quite a difference between LSUS and Texas A&M, according to Barnett.

Though LSUS may be a shock to Barnett, shock does not describe the feelings of other students. Their feelings range from thinking LSUS is "OK" to plain dislike.

Mary Ellen Elliot falls into the "OK" category. Elliot attended the University of Florida immediately after high school. The university's enrollment is approximately 34,000. There are no bells but some teachers check roll. Their method of checking

roll is signing your name to a list at the front of the room, Elliot said. Elliot's classes ranged from 50-500 students, she said.

Next, Elliot transferred to the University of Mississippi. There, classes averaged about 35 students with 300 being the largest, she said. Elliot said there were no bells and no roll call. "Ole Miss is a very laid back school," she said.

She admits that LSUS is not that "laid back" but she thinks it is "OK." Elliot transferred to LSUS to bring her grades up and she is succeeding, she said, and she is getting exactly what she wants out of the university. Elliot's teachers do take roll, she doesn't have assigned seats but she has noticed the bells, she said, adding that they don't bother her but they definitely remind her of high school.

Elliot said she likes this "high school" aspect of LSUS because everything is uniform. The bells tell you when to go to class and they tell you when class is over. The mandatory attendance helps her make it to class everyday. The classes are small so there is more individual attention. For all of these reasons, Elliot feels LSUS' structure has benefitted her.

But it has not benefitted Brad Crawford, a junior at LSUS. He said he plans to transfer to LSU in Baton Rouge soon.



**Suzanne Bright**

Crawford does not like small classes. He likes a larger class because he said he feels they have more to offer. "You get more input because you get a different variety of opinions," he said.

But teachers do require attendance and take roll in all of "I like the bells. They help me know when to get to class."

**Suzanne Bright, 1989**

Crawford's classes.

Crawford said he does not understand why roll is taken at LSUS. The only reason he can think of is that LSUS is a commuter school and the students may need more incentive to come to school "...because when you live on campus all you have to do is roll out of bed ten minutes before class starts and make it to class," he said.

Without question, Crawford said he could do without the bells.

He thinks they are more for the teachers than the students to know when class begins, he said.

Suzanne Bright, professor of communications, said, "I like the bells. They help me know when to get to class."

Ronnie Ferguson, a sophomore at LSUS, said he hates the bells and finds them very annoying. "They always ring before I finish my cigarette," he said.

He also said he finds it annoying that all of his classes take roll. He feels college students are adults and if they want to go to class they should go and if they don't want to, then they shouldn't, he said.

First, Ferguson attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Northwestern didn't have bells, he said, and roll was rarely called. There were no assigned seats although the classes were almost twice as large as the classes at LSUS, he added.

Ferguson's Zoology 122 class at LSUS does have assigned seats. He said this assigned seating makes him feel as though he is in high school again. "I finished high school years ago and I didn't want to go back," he said.



**J.I.B.  
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news

# Alumni Association 'Losing it's mind'

By Sarah Adcock  
Contributing Writer

The LSUS Alumni Association's 1989 Mindpower Campaign slogan, "We Are Losing Our Minds!" is aimed toward impact—to get monetary support for the university.

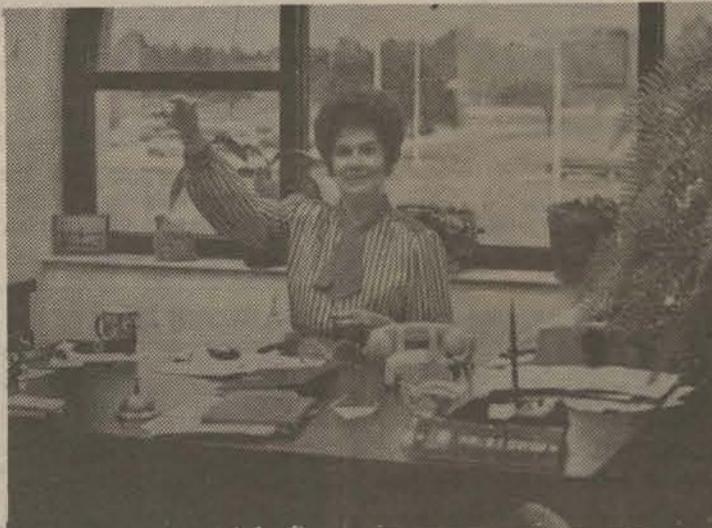
Phyllis Graham, director of the alumni association, said that alumni are concerned that LSUS is losing students to other states more financially able to provide quality education. Lack of funds for necessary equipment, books and competitive faculty and staff salaries causes potential students to look elsewhere for their education, she said.

The alumni association hopes to raise money with its Mindpower Campaign to acquire books for the library.

The library suffered \$80,000 in budget cuts this past fiscal year, said Graham, and if Gov. Roemer's tax package does not pass, LSUS will face more cuts, perhaps as much as \$1.7 million.

Devoting itself to promoting a positive image of LSUS to the community, the alumni association funds scholarships and special projects that will benefit student and campus needs, Graham said.

What started as an effort of the first graduating class of 1975 to stay in touch with each other has grown to a 5,000-plus-member body of LSUS grads with



**Phyllis Graham hails alumni association.**

an interest in seeing their alma mater flourish.

Graham has been with the association since its inception and has seen much change and "many graduates do so many wonderful things," she said. "I can pull up on the computer, doctors, lawyers and professionals from all areas," she added.

Some of the first graduates still are active members, Graham said. Shirley Jack Bates, the youngest graduate-to-date from LSUS, currently serves as secretary of the association. Bates graduated with a major in political science at the age of 19 and has since remained connected to the university through the association.

In an effort to keep everyone

together, students founded the alumni association, said Bates. What started as a part-time effort to stay in touch has changed to a full-time association that benefits the university with scholarships and public relations, Bates added.

The reason the average LSUS student may not know much about the alumni association is because "we haven't done enough on campus," said Graham. This is changing, however, with the association providing such things as the commencement reception and books for the library. "We are trying to find a way to fight student apathy," Graham added.

Any person who graduates from LSUS is an automatic

"Devoting itself to promoting a positive image of LSUS to the community, the alumni association funds scholarships and special projects that will benefit student and campus needs."

**Phyllis Graham, 1989**

member of the alumni association. Whether graduates are active or non-active members depends on individual desire. The \$5 yearly membership fee will begin around June. Prior to this, there was no cost associated with being a member.

The alumni association earns its money by working festivals such as the Revel and the State Fair. Graham defines the primary function as "reaching out and finding ways to help the university, especially in tight times like today."

"We even have an Alumnus by Choice (ABC) program that allows people who did not graduate from LSUS to become honorary alumni and therefore become part of the school," Graham said.

Peter Villari, Mindpower co-chairman, is an ABC and he chose LSUS because he felt an immediate connection with the campus and loved LSUS' athletic prowess on the Baton Rouge campus. "Everytime I saw LSU play football or basketball, I was moved," Villari said.

Villari, a native of Ohio, moved to Mississippi and earned a degree in business administration from Mississippi College. "I fell in love with the South," Villari said, "and I do not miss

the inclement weather in Ohio." South Central Bell transferred him to Shreveport, and once here, he became interested in promoting the LSU name, Villari said.

Villari feels that the "long-term survival of any university depends on those who have already been served." The alumni support makes a difference to all universities, he added. If the alumni organization dissolved, immediate impact would not be felt, but the lack of allegiance soon would take a toll, he said.

An ABC pays \$200 yearly, of which \$125 goes to the school for different costs, and \$75 goes to the health and physical education department for gym accessibility. For \$75 yearly, other alumni also may use the gym facilities.

The future of the alumni association will involve "strengthening the association and getting the alumni more interested in making a positive impact on the school and the community," Graham said.

Strengthening the ties between the Baton Rouge campus and LSUS is what Villari would like to see. It is apparent that the Alumni Association wants to be an active part of LSUS' past, present and future.

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## news



## Turning The Corner

## Defining SGA

By TOM EYTON-JONES  
Columnist

You are probably thinking that you are about to read another column about my garbage disposal backing up or bad lettuce in my refrigerator. Those are good topics (as well as real life problems) but, not the subject of this week's missive. I want to bring you into the circle of select people who blindly stumble from one class to the next: the campus electorate.

Yes, ladies and gents, it's election time at LSUS; it's time to elect the president and vice president of the SGA. For those of you who don't know what S-G-A means, I'll write it out for you: Student Government Association. Let us examine this term, students, "Student"—that means YOU. "Government"—that means a group of people who are chosen to represent YOU in matters of importance on this campus. "Association" is just another word for chaos within an organizational structure so we'll disregard it as irrelevant.

This year you have FOUR different duets to choose from: Humphries/Gaines, Kaiser/Medicus, Bordelon/Nguyen and Alexander/Smith. Am I about to examine the candidates to

assist you in making up your mind? Sorry, right church but wrong pew. However, I have a little guessing game for you to play; all you have to do is examine the candidates and decide which description matches what pair of candidates. After you've made your selections, you're all ready to vote! Ready, boys and girls? Heeere we go!

Selection No. 1: They claim to know what is wrong and are ready to fix it, but are they "goodwrenches" or "good-wreckers"? How can you tell?

Selection No. 2: Smiling faces sometimes... show good dental work but not much else.

Selection No. 3: Experience is a two-edged sword: did they "cut down" their opponents or cut their own throats?

Selection No. 4: Hyperkinetics and invisibility make things happen in front of you that you don't even realize may have hurt you, even if you knew they were happening.

So there you have it! Not too much to go on, is there? Maybe you had better start asking some questions. Maybe it might help if you knew exactly what happens in the SGA. Have you read the last four issues of the ALMAGEST? Maybe you should. After all, these people

want to guide a student organization that will be making decisions that will affect YOU.

I suppose you now want to know what the lingering odor is that appears at the top of this column, right? This is the easiest explanation I've ever given: it's VOTER APATHY. The smell of "I don't care" has wafted over this campus for a long time and it's showing its age. No one can criticize the winners if they didn't bother to vote. That's not a law, just my

opinion. A voter turnout of 17 percent is considered "good" around here. Seventeen percent!! That means about 75 students are electing people to

represent over 4,000 students. But, this lack of support also shows up in what the SGA can do for the students. If the administration thinks they represent only a handful of students, very little of what they say will be taken seriously. As a result, YOU lose. Programs and activities that would benefit YOU will vanish in the haze if the SGA becomes only a political science lab.

Get out your spray cans and blow away the smell: VOTE!!

## Trees...

(Continued from pg. 1)  
take awhile.

However, Parker disagreed with the manner in which this decision to prune the trees was made. "I don't think just one person should make such a decision on things," he said. "It affects too many people to be a one-person decision."

But Farrar said, "I didn't make this decision in a vacuum." He spoke to his supervisor, Fabia Thomas, vice chancellor of business affairs, and she knew about my decision," Farrar said.

"I didn't just do it on my own," Farrar said.

Dr. Lyle Cook, dean of the College of Science, said, "I think it had to be done. I know there are people on both sides but I'm kind

of in the middle."

Meg Lucas, communication senior said, "I think it's good (the pruning). Nobody ever sits in the middle circle because of the smell the birds leave behind."

Farrar said that the "bad bird problem and the trees growing up against the science building and the UC" were also determinants in the decision to do something

about the trees.

Andrea Logan, public relations senior said, "They definitely needed pruning. But, it makes the campus look bare."

Clay Bryan, journalism senior, disagrees with Lucas and Logan. "I think it looks terrible," he said. "They should've dealt with the birds, not the trees," he added.

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Alexander...  
(Continued from pg. 1)

inauguration day.

Kaiser said, "She's (Raines) the final authority."

Alexander appealed to the Student Affairs Board Appeals Board, but was allowed to run before a hearing. He said the decision was based on the fact that Raines has no constitutional authority to decide on the eligibility of candidates.

Kaiser said the student affairs rules committee voted to recom-

mend to Raines that Alexander be allowed to run.

Raines said Alexander should be allowed to run, but the constitution "obviously says he can't."

Said Alexander, "If it wasn't evident before all this happened that the SGA is in need of reform, then it should be now."

All of the candidates will debate Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the UC.

## Campus life:



"Soon the trees will be gone."

photo by Kevan Smith

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